

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 DRC-01

/106 W

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R 181108Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7661

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ILO XG NO

SUBJ: EAST-WEST LABOR MEETING: NORWEGIAN COMMENTS

REF: OSLO 272

1. AT LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR JANUARY 16, NORWEGIAN TRADE
UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT TOR ASPENGREN STRESSED THAT
WEST EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENT ARE UNITED ARE UNITED IN DETERMINATION
THAT

1) EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS NOT BE USED FOR PROPAGANDA
PURPOSES, 2) NO SECRETARIAT OR OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED
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FRAMEWORK, SUCH AS SOVIETS DESIRE, WOULD BE ESTABLISHED

AND 3) CONTACTS WOULD CONCENTRATE ON EXPLORATION OF SUBSTANCE OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS POLLUTION, TO SEE IF EAST IS WILLING TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY ON THESE SUBJECTS.

HE ENVISIONED AN ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, PERHAPS NEXT FALL, AS LIKELY OUTCOME, BUT EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT WHOLE PROCESS WOULD BE BROKEN OFF IF COMMUNISTS REVERTED TO COLD WAR TACTICS. HE SAID SCANDINAVIANS BLUNTLY MADE THIS CLEAR TO SHELEPIN AT HELSINKI MEETING LAST FALL; IF SOVIETS ACTED AGAIN LIKE THEY HAD IN LATE FORTIES, ALL CONTACT AND COOPERATION WOULD END. IN DISCUSSING NORWEGIAN RATIONALE IN SEEKING TO EXPAND EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS, ASPENGREN SPOKE OF IMPORTANCE OF USING EVERY POSSIBLE CHANNEL TO RESOLVE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS POLLUTION, AND ALSO STRESSED WESTERN INTEREST IN BROADENING CONTACTS PAST POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF EASTERN "UNIONS" TO REACH GRASS ROOTS WORKING LEVEL.

2. ASPENGREN ALSO STRESSED HIS AND NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT'S STRONG HOPE THAT AFL-CIO WOULD SEE WAY CLEAR TO "RETURN TO FOLD" OF INTERNATIONAL FREE LABOR MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY TO ICFTU, SUGGESTING THAT AFL-CIO PRESENCE IN WESTERN TRADE UNION COUNCILS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO COUNTER-BALANCE INFLUENCE OF SOVIETS. HE DID SO WHILE REITERATING HIS KEEN INTEREST IN IMPROVING LO-AFL-CIO RELATIONS.
BYRNE

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